

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-11, 14 and 16 are amended hereby; and claims 8 and 15 are cancelled hereby. The specification and a sheet of the drawings are also amended hereby.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, Applicants have amended Figs. 3 and 4, by adding designators to refer to inner surfaces 21 and 23, opening 25 and direction D. Each of the changes is indicated by the use of red ink. No new matter was introduced in this amendment.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 16, based on informalities, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 16, keeping in mind the suggestions made by the Examiner, and submit that claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 16 are now in form for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, Applicants have amended the drawings and the specification to more particularly describe the opening and a direction away from the opening, and submit that claims 1-17 do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regards as their invention.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-7, 9-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,367,005 (Douty et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,203,397 (Bandyopadhyay), Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 7, 9-11, 14 and 16.

Douty, et al. disclose a strain relief cover on cable 10 that terminates a cable 12. Each cover member 14 and 16 includes an inwardly bowed, conductor gripping portion 22 having a plurality of inwardly directed integral teeth 24 thereon. Teeth 24 are staggered with respect to

each other so as to form an inter-digitating pattern. The shape of the teeth is of little consequence to the functionality of the invention (column 2, line 21-37).

Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine. Conductors 16 can be surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass, a portion of which is shown at 20 in the figure (column 5, lines 3-5).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended recites in part:

pointed projections including two adjacent sides being adjacent to said ramped side extending from said inner surface meeting to form a chisel point oriented substantially parallel with a direction in which said electrical conductors are oriented within said connector.

(Emphasis Added) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Douty et al. disclose a strain relief cover on a cable with the shape of teeth being of little consequence to the invention. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. However, Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest pointed projections including two adjacent sides being adjacent to a ramped side extending from an inner surface meeting to form a chisel point oriented substantially parallel with a direction in which the electrical conductors are oriented within said connector, as recited in claim 1.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the teeth are shaped to pierce and retain a fiberglass sleeve surrounding conductors. Also advantageously, the shape of the teeth separates the conductors rather than piercing insulation that surrounds the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-7 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 9, as amended recites in part:

a plurality of pointed projections ... including a ramped side extending farther from said inner surface in a direction away from said opening, ... said two adjacent sides, said ramped side and said other side extending from said inner surface thereby meeting to form one of a pyramid-shaped point and a chisel-shaped point, said other surface extending farther from said inner surface in said direction.

(Emphasis Added) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Douty et al. disclose a strain relief cover on a cable with the shape of teeth being of little consequence to the invention. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. However, Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of pointed projections including a ramped side extending farther from an inner surface in a direction away from the opening, the two adjacent sides, the ramped side and the other side extending from the inner surface thereby meeting to form a pyramid-shaped point or a chisel-shaped point, the other surface extending farther from the inner surface in the direction, as recited in claim 9.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the teeth are shaped to pierce and retain a fiberglass sleeve surrounding conductors. Also advantageously, the shape of the teeth separates the conductors rather than piercing insulation that surrounds the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 9, and claims 10-14 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In still further contrast, claim 16, as amended recites in part:

a plurality of pointed projections ... including a ramped side extending farther from said inner surface in a direction away from said opening, ... said two adjacent sides, said ramped side and said other side extending from said inner surface

thereby meeting to form one of a pyramid-shaped point and a chisel-shaped point, said other surface extending farther from said inner surface in said direction.

(Emphasis Added) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Douty et al. disclose a strain relief cover on a cable with the shape of teeth being of little consequence to the invention. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. However, Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of pointed projections including a ramped side extending farther from an inner surface in a direction away from the opening, the two adjacent sides, the ramped side and the other side extending from the inner surface thereby meeting to form a pyramid-shaped point or a chisel-shaped point, the other surface extending farther from the inner surface in the direction, as recited in claim 9.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the method utilizes a housing having teeth shaped to pierce and retain a fiberglass sleeve surrounding conductors. Also advantageously, the shape of the teeth separates the conductors rather than piercing insulation that surrounds the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 16, and claim 17 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douty et al. and Bandyopadhyay and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,156,514 (Wing et al.), Applicants have cancelled claims 8 and 15.

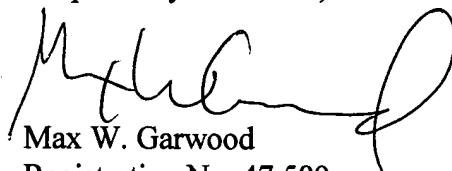
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches,

discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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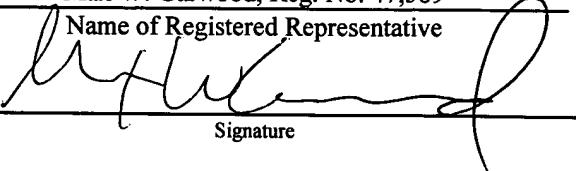
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 17, 2003.

Max W. Garwood, Reg. No. 47,589

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

June 17, 2003

Date

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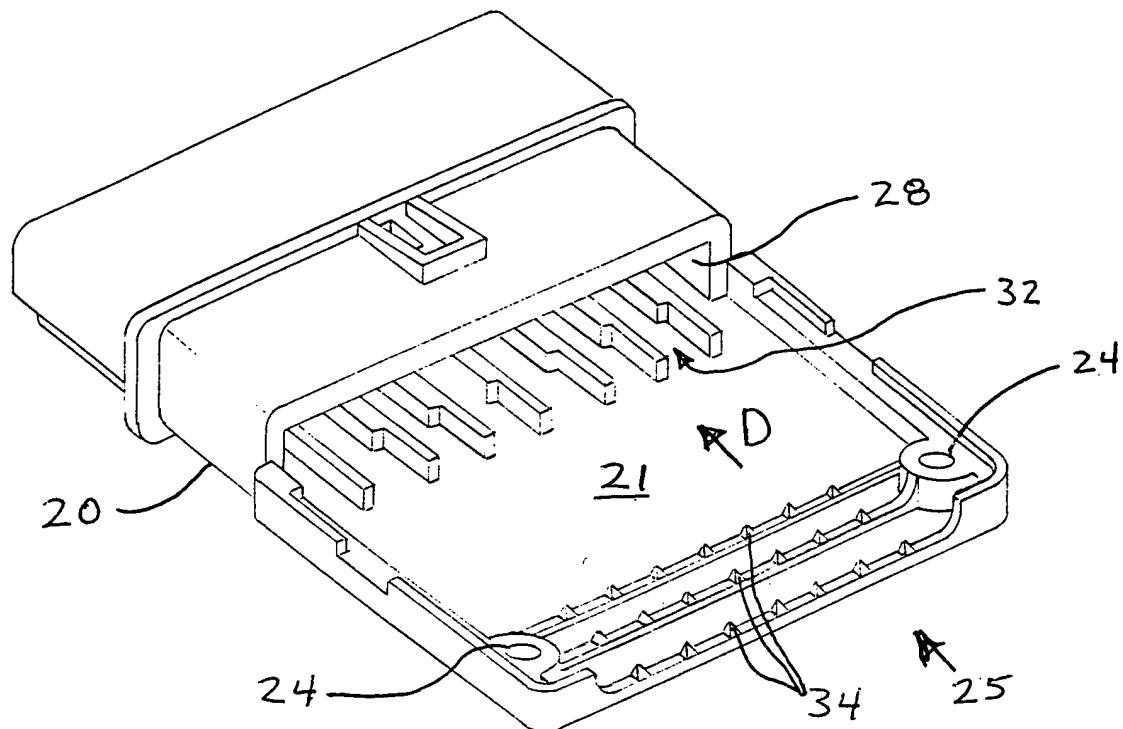


FIG. 3

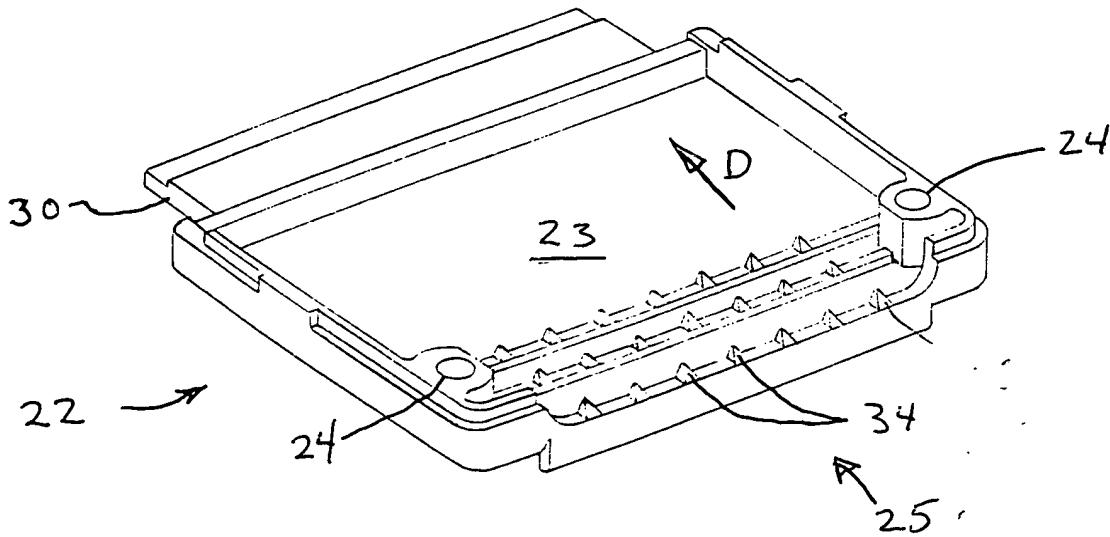


FIG. 4